



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

08/883,322 06/26/97 SHIMIZU

R SONYP7510

EXAMINER

WM02/0413

PHILIP M SHAW JR  
LIMBACH & LIMBACH  
2001 FERRY BUILDING  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94111-4262

TRAN, T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED:

04/13/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
08/883,322

Applicant(s)  
Shimizu

Examiner  
Thai Tran

Group Art Unit  
2615



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 26, 1997

☐ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle* 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some\* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 2615

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki ('858) in view of Okauchi ('890).

Regarding claim 1, Suzuki discloses an a video tape recorder (Fig. 5 and Fig. 17) capable of performing signal recording and reproducing process at a plurality of different frame rates having means (column 7, lines 9-42 and column 17, lines 6-9) for recording an input image signal at a selected recording frame rate. However, Suzuki does not specifically discloses means for recording a first time code stepped in a non-drop frame format and a second time code stepped in a drop frame format together with the selected recording frame rate.

Art Unit: 2615

Okauchi teaches a data recording system for use in a video tape recorder having means (column 5, lines 8-66) for recording a first time code stepped in a non-drop frame format and a second time code stepped in a drop frame format together with the selected recording frame rate so that the time code in recording is coincidence with the real time according to the CTL coding system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the time code recorder as taught by Okauchi into Suzuki's system in order to coincide the real time and the time code in recording according to the CTL coding system.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Suzuki and Okauchi teaches that the input image signal is recorded as a component digital image signal on a recording medium (column 11, lines 4-57 of Suzuki), and the time code stepped in the non-drop frame format, the time code stepped in the drop frame format, and the recording frame rate are each respectively recorded in an auxiliary area of the signal recording area on the recording medium (column 5, lines 8-66 of Okauchi and column 11, lines 40-48 of Suzuki).

Regarding claim 3, Suzuki discloses that the signal recording area of the recording medium is a video recording area (column 14, lines 30-45).

Regarding claim 4, Suzuki discloses that the signal recording area of the recording medium is a audio recording area (column 14, lines 30-45).

Art Unit: 2615

Regarding claim 5, the claimed 59.94 Hz is met by the NTSC signal disclosed in column 7, lines 30-42) and the claimed 60 Hz is met by the MUSE signal disclosed in column 7, lines 9-16 and column 17, lines 6-9 of Suzuki.

Regarding claim 6, the claimed a frame rate selection circuit for selecting a frame rate from the plurality of frame rates is met by the switch 8 of Suzuki (column 8, line 64 to column 9, line 31 of Suzuki); the claimed a counting method selection circuit for selecting a time code counting method from a plurality of time code counting methods is met by column 5, lines 8-62 of Okauchi; the claimed a first signal generation circuit for outputting a first control signal indicating the selected frame rate is met by switch 8 of Suzuki (column 8, line 64 to column 9, line 31 of Suzuki); the claimed a second signal generation circuit for outputting a second controlling signal indicating the selected time code is met by column 5, lines 8-62 of Okauchi; the claimed a time code generator circuit for generating a plurality of time code counts, one for each of the plurality of time code counting methods is met by column 5, lines 8-62 of Okauchi; the claimed a first recording circuit for recording the video signals on the recording medium at the selected frame rate in response to the first controlling signal from the control circuit is met by magnetic heads 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B of Fig. 5 of Suzuki; the claimed a second recording circuit for recording the plurality of time code counts from the time code generator circuit on the recording medium is met by the magnetic head 8 of Fig. 2 of Okauchi; the claimed a third recording circuit for recording data indicating the selected frame rate on the recording medium is met by column 11, lines 40-48 of Suzuki; and wherein a time code method selection and recording circuit for selecting a time

Art Unit: 2615

code count from the plurality of time code counts generated by the time code generator circuit, and for recording the selected time code count on the recording medium in response to the second controlling signal from the control circuit is met by column 5, lines 8-66 of Okauchi.

Claim 7 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 5 above.

Regarding claim 8, the claimed wherein the plurality of time code counting methods include a first time code counting method of the video signal using drop frame stepping and a second time code counting method of the video signal using non-drop frame stepping is met by column 5, lines 8-66 of Okauchi.

Claim 9 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 2 above.

Claim 10 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 3 above.

Claim 11 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 4 above.

Claim 12 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claims 1 and 6 above and the additional claimed recording medium processing means for recording the audio and video signal on the recording medium as the selected frame rate based on the first control signal is met by column 14, lines 30-45 of Suzuki and the claimed time code reproducing means for reproducing the selected time code count recorded on the recording medium is met by column 5, line 64 to column 6, line 11 of Okauchi.

Regarding claim 13, Suzuki discloses a video tape recording method for performing signal recording and reproducing processes at a plurality of frame rates (Fig. 5 and Fig. 17) having the steps of separating the time code information and recording frame rate information according to a

Art Unit: 2615

reproduced signal (TCI discriminators 50 and 51 of Fig. 17 and column 24, lines 30-55) and selecting a playback frame rate for the reproduced signal and a time code for the selected frame rate (column 18, lines 63-67 and column 24, lines 30-55). However, Suzuki does not specifically disclose a plurality of types of time code information and the claimed reproduced image information is accessed via real-time units and frame number units.

Okauchi teaches a data recording/reproducing system for use in a video tape recorder having means (column 5, lines 8-66 and column 5, line 63 to column 6, line 21) for recording/reproducing a first time code stepped in a non-drop frame format and a second time code stepped in a drop frame format together with the selected recording frame rate so that the time code in recording is coincidence with the real time according to the CTL coding system and that the video signal is reproduced via real-time units and frame number units (column 1, lines 6-52).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the time code recorder/reproducer as taught by Okauchi into Suzuki's system in order to coincide the real time and the time code in recording according to the CTL coding system.

The method claim 14 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in apparatus claims 1 and 6 above.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

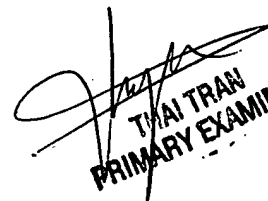
Art Unit: 2615

The cited references relate to an apparatus for recording/reproducing video signals of plurality of systems.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thai Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4725. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. To Friday, 8:00AM to 5:30 PM.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-6306 for regular communications and (703) 308-6306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

  
THAI TRAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

TTQ

April 11, 2001